

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 321

To provide for the establishment of a scientific basis for new firefighting technology standards, improve coordination among Federal, State, and local fire officials in training for and responding to terrorist attacks and other national emergencies, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 5, 2003

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. DeWINE, and Ms. CANTWELL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of a scientific basis for new firefighting technology standards, improve coordination among Federal, State, and local fire officials in training for and responding to terrorist attacks and other national emergencies, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Firefighting Research
5 and Coordination Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NEW FIREFIGHTING TECHNOLOGY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8 of the Federal Fire Pre-
3 vention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2207) is
4 amended—

5 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
6 section (f); and

7 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(e) DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to, or as part
11 of, the program conducted under subsection (a), the
12 Administrator, in consultation with the National In-
13 stitute of Standards and Technology, the Inter-
14 Agency Board for Equipment Standardization and
15 Inter-Operability, national voluntary consensus
16 standards development organizations, interested
17 Federal, State, and local agencies, and other inter-
18 ested parties, shall—

19 “(A) develop new, and utilize existing,
20 measurement techniques and testing methodolo-
21 gies for evaluating new firefighting tech-
22 nologies, including—

23 “(i) personal protection equipment;

24 “(ii) devices for advance warning of
25 extreme hazard;

26 “(iii) equipment for enhanced vision;

1 “(iv) devices to locate victims, fire-
 2 fighters, and other rescue personnel in
 3 above-ground and below-ground structures;

4 “(v) equipment and methods to pro-
 5 vide information for incident command, in-
 6 cluding the monitoring and reporting of in-
 7 dividual personnel welfare;

8 “(vi) equipment and methods for
 9 training, especially for virtual reality train-
 10 ing; and

11 “(vii) robotics and other remote-con-
 12 trolled devices;

13 “(B) evaluate the compatibility of new
 14 equipment and technology with existing fire-
 15 fighting technology; and

16 “(C) support the development of new vol-
 17 untary consensus standards through national
 18 voluntary consensus standards organizations for
 19 new firefighting technologies based on tech-
 20 niques and methodologies described in subpara-
 21 graph (A).

22 “(2) NEW EQUIPMENT MUST MEET STAND-
 23 ARDS.—For equipment for which applicable vol-
 24 untary consensus standards have been established,
 25 the Administrator shall, by regulation, require that

1 equipment or systems purchased through the assist-
 2 ance program established by section 33 meet or ex-
 3 ceed applicable voluntary consensus standards.”.

4 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
 5 17 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
 6 (15 U.S.C. 2216) is amended by adding at the end the
 7 following:

8 “(i) DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY.—There
 9 are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to
 10 carry out section 8(e) \$2,200,000 for fiscal year 2004.”.

11 **SEC. 3. COORDINATION OF RESPONSE TO NATIONAL EMER-**
 12 **GENCY.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 10 of the Federal Fire
 14 Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2209) is
 15 amended—

16 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
 17 section (c); and

18 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
 19 lowing:

20 “(b) MUTUAL AID SYSTEMS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, after
 22 consultation with the Director of the Federal Emer-
 23 gency Management Agency, shall provide technical
 24 assistance and training to State and local fire serv-
 25 ice officials to establish nationwide and State mutual

1 aid systems for dealing with national emergencies
2 that—

3 “(A) include threat assessment and equip-
4 ment deployment strategies;

5 “(B) include means of collecting asset and
6 resource information to provide accurate and
7 timely data for regional deployment; and

8 “(C) are consistent with the Federal
9 Emergency Management Agency’s Federal Re-
10 sponse Plan.

11 “(2) MODEL MUTUAL AID PLANS.—The Admin-
12 istrator, in consultation with the Director of the
13 Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall de-
14 velop and make available to State and local fire serv-
15 ice officials model mutual aid plans for both intra-
16 state and interstate assistance.”.

17 (b) REPORT ON STRATEGIC NEEDS.—Within 90 days
18 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
19 of the United States Fire Administration shall report to
20 the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
21 portation and the House of Representatives Committee on
22 Science on the need for a strategy concerning deployment
23 of volunteers and emergency response personnel (as de-
24 fined in section 6 of the Firefighters’ Safety Study Act

1 (15 U.S.C. 2223e)), including a national credentialing sys-
 2 tem, in the event of a national emergency.

3 (c) UPDATE OF FEDERAL RESPONSE PLAN.—Within
 4 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Di-
 5 rector of the Federal Emergency Management Agency
 6 shall—

7 (1) revise that Agency’s Federal Response Plan
 8 to incorporate plans for responding to terrorist at-
 9 tacks, particularly in urban areas, including fire de-
 10 tection and suppression and related emergency serv-
 11 ices; and

12 (2) transmit a report to the Senate Committee
 13 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the
 14 House of Representatives Committee on Science de-
 15 scribing the action taken to comply with paragraph
 16 (1).

17 **SEC. 4. TRAINING.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8(d)(1) of the Federal
 19 Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C.
 20 2206(d)(1)) is amended—

21 (1) by striking “and” after the semicolon in
 22 subparagraph (E);

23 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as sub-
 24 paragraph (N); and

1 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(F) strategies for building collapse rescue;

4 “(G) the use of technology in response to
5 fires, including terrorist incidents and other na-
6 tional emergencies;

7 “(H) response, tactics, and strategies for
8 dealing with terrorist-caused national catas-
9 trophes;

10 “(I) use of and familiarity with the Fed-
11 eral Emergency Management Agency’s Federal
12 Response Plan;

13 “(J) leadership and strategic skills, includ-
14 ing integrated management systems operations
15 and integrated response;

16 “(K) applying new technology and devel-
17 oping strategies and tactics for fighting forest
18 fires;

19 “(L) integrating terrorism response agen-
20 cies into the national terrorism incident re-
21 sponse system;

22 “(M) response tactics and strategies for
23 fighting fires at United States ports, including
24 fires on the water and aboard vessels; and”.

1 (b) CONSULTATION ON FIRE ACADEMY CLASSES.—

2 The Superintendent of the National Fire Academy may
3 consult with other Federal, State, and local agency offi-
4 cials in developing curricula for classes offered by the
5 Academy.

6 (c) COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS TO
7 AVOID DUPLICATION.—The Administrator of the United
8 States Fire Administration shall coordinate training pro-
9 vided under section 8(d)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention
10 and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2206(d)(1)) with the
11 Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human
12 Services, and the heads of other Federal agencies—

13 (1) to ensure that such training does not dupli-
14 cate existing courses available to fire service per-
15 sonnel; and

16 (2) to establish a mechanism for eliminating
17 duplicative training programs.

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